

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OES-06 DODE-00

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ECON, GH

SUBJ: GHANA'S 5-YEAR PLAN OFFICIALLY "LAUNCHED"

REF: ACCRA A-10

1. HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG FORMALLY "LAUNCHED" 1975-80 DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN MAJOR CEREMONY APRIL 18, WITH MOST OF FELLOW SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT AND, OF COURSE, MAJOR PRESS PLAY FOLLOWING.

2. ACHEAMPONG OUTLINED SOME OF MAJOR ELEMENTS OF PLAN, REPORTED REPAIR, AND SIGNIFICANTLY MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. "I... RENEW THE GOVERNMENT'S PLEDGE TO THE PEOPLE OF GHANA TO PROTECT, IMPROVE, AND SUSTAIN (SIC) THE STANDARD OF LIVING AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF EVERY GHANAIAN."

B. "THE ANNUAL BUDGET WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE MAIN VEHICLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN."

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C. "WE NEED TO IMPROVE OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION, CUT DOWN BUDGET DEFICITS, SERVICE DEBTS ACCUMULATED BY PREVIOUS REGIMES, RAISE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY AND REDUCE SHORTAGES OF FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS."

D. "WE MAY BE COMPELLED SOMEDAY TO FORCE PEOPLE TO WORK ON FARMS IF OUR APPEAL IS NOT SERIOUSLY HEEDDED."

E. "IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-RELIANCE WHICH

WE HAVE ADOPTED AS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR DEVELOPMENT, A GREATER PROPORTION... OF FINANCING... IS EXPECTED TO BE BORNE BY GHANAIS... A THIRD IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THE REMAINING PORTION... BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR INCLUDING PUBLIC CORPORATIONS."

F. REPEATED FAMILIAR LITANY OF BLAMING ECONOMIC TROUBLES ON HOARDERS, SMUGGLERS, AND PROFITEERS.

G. CALLED FOR MORE FARM SUPPORT SERVICES, E.G., SEEDLINGS, CREDIT, FEEDER ROADS, IRRIGATION.

H. RURAL AREAS WILL BE BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECIPIENT OF MAJOR RESOURCES, CONCENTRATING ON INCOME GENERATION, EMPLOYMENT, HOUSES, WATER AND OTHER SOCIAL AMENITIES.

I. RURAL HEALTH CENTERS AND POLYCLINICS WILL BE GREATLY EXPANDED.

3. CEREMONY WAS CHAIRED BY COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING GARDINER, WHO PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR FINAL SHAPE OF PLAN. HE MADE NO MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE POINTS ON THIS OCCASION, HOWEVER.

4. MR. E.A. BOATENG, ONE OF SIX "PERMANENT" (I.E., FULL TIME) MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANNING COMMISSION, GAVE SPEECH WHICH QUITE FRANK IN ITS APPROACH AND SHOULD HAVE GIVEN SOME PAUSE TO SMC AND NRC MEMBERS PRESENT. EXCERPTS:

A. "...NINE YEARS AGO OUR HOPES FOR TRANSLATING OUR GOALS INTO ACTION WERE PINNED LARGELY ON OUTSIDE HELP; THE PLAN NOW BEING PRESENTED TODAY IS BASED ON THE BELIEF THAT OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEST HOPE... RESTS PRIMARILY ON OUR OWN DETERMINATION AND PREPAREDNESS AS A PEOPLE TO RELY ON OUR OWN INNER RESOURCES..."

B. "A DEVELOPMENT PLAN... IS AT BEST NO MORE THAN A DECLARATION OF INTENTION. IT REQUIRES DETERMINATION AND POLITICAL WILL TO TRANSLATE IT INTO ACTION... HOWEVER, EVEN THE MOST SERIOUS PLANS NEED... A REASONABLE DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY... IF I MAY BE SO BOLD AS TO SAY THIS IN THE PRESENCE OF PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS, THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE STRATEGY FOR A PLAN AND THE TACTICS REQUIRED FOR ITS ACTUAL, DETAILED EXECUTION."

C. "AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION FOR SUCCESS IS THE PRESENCE OF AN OVERRIDING DISCIPLINE WHICH CAN PROVIDE A CONTEXT FOR ACTION AT ALL LEVELS AND AT EVERY STAGE. WHAT GHANA HAS MOSTLY LACKED IN THE PAST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS PLANS HAS BEEN THE PRESENCE OF JUST THIS KIND OF DISCIPLINE AND THE ABILITY TO SEE IMMEDIATE BUT ESSENTIALLY TEMPORARY DEMANDS AND PRESSURES IN THEIR RIGHT PERSPECTIVE IN RELATION TO BROADER AND APPROVED NATIONAL TARGETS."

5. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER, THE QUESTION ABOUT THIS PLAN IS ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND THE GOG'S WILLINGNESS AND/OR ABILITY TO TAKE THE NECESSARY DIFFICULT DECISIONS AND TO CARRY THEM OUT. BOATENG'S COMMENTS SHOULD (BUT PROBABLY WILL NOT) BE HEEDDED. ACHEAMPONG'S TRIAL BALLOON ON POSSIBLY FORCING PEOPLE BACK TO RURAL AREAS BEARS WATCHING. SUCH EFFORTS SOME YEARS AGO WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

6. TEXTS OF SPEECHES BEING POUCHED TO AF/W-MCGUIRE. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF DR. GARDINDER'S APPOINTMENTS IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK, FOREGOING MAY BE USEFUL BACKGROUND.
SMITH

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